

BACKGROUND PAPER

20 July 1961

COMMUNISM IN THE CONGO

I. Until about 1959, Congo was kept in political isolation by Belgium and there were few promising individuals for Communist recruitment or exploitation.

A. As Belgium began to train Congolese for independence, however, many made trips to Brussels and there made contact with the Belgian Communist Party.

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II. Lumumba is not known to have visited the Bloc, but he is believed to have accepted financial support from the Belgian Communist Party.

A. But he would probably take money from anyone who offered it.

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III. Since the Force Publique revolt, there have been recurrent rumors that the Force Publique had been subverted and its revolt instigated by Communists. While this is conceivable, it does not appear likely.

A. In pre-independence period, Force Publique soldiers were even more isolated than the average Congolese.

B. The Force Publique revolt was seemingly prompted by pique at being excluded from wage increases granted to civil servants after independence.

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